

pass this bill to name the building at 600 East First Street in Rome, Georgia, the Harold L. Murphy Federal Building and United States Courthouse.

REWARDING BIG OIL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, today and tomorrow House Republicans are bringing the Strategic Production Response Act to the floor, a bill that forces the administration to open up even more public lands and waters to drilling any time the President releases oils from the reserve in order to lower consumer gas prices.

Now, what House Republicans are doing is effectively ending the President's authority to lower consumer gas prices while handing over our public lands and waters to Big Oil.

You might wonder why Republicans are pushing legislation that clearly hurts the American people and consumers.

To put it plainly, they are simply crossing another item off the wish list of Big Oil. It is a simple payback to the political campaign donors. This legislation is not needed. It is fabricated. It is based on a lie.

Time after time, year after year, the fossil fuel industry lobbies to control and lock up more of our public lands and waters, and it often comes at the expense of surrounding environmental justice communities.

I say it is built on a lie. There are 9,000 permits on public land effectively for Big Oil to be able to drill, access, and extract. There are 2,000 that are not being used. There are 2,000 permits on our oceans and waters that at this point 75 percent of those permits are not being used, which already affords them the opportunity to extract.

Frontline communities in this country carry a legacy of dumping activities that have endangered both the health and the quality of life of these communities.

Sadly, Big Oil has a well-documented and troubled history of concentrating their polluting projects, such as pipelines and refineries, in environmental justice communities, including communities of color, poor communities, Tribal communities, communities without political representation and a systemic discrimination in terms of the burden they carry. All of this is documented. It is documented in higher air pollution rates in those communities, water pollution and contamination, premature death, higher incidence of cancer, and other diseases that affect these communities more than any other.

Yet, Republicans, once again, stand ready to do Big Oil's bidding this week. If Republicans actually are interested in helping American families in the communities overburdened by oil industry pollution, they would support the Environmental Justice For All Act.

We have been working on the Environmental Justice For All Act for over 3 years. It was developed and shaped directly by EJ communities during an extensive engagement process.

This Act has many components, but it's based on a simple principle: All people have the right to clean air, clean water, and healthy local environments. For too many across our Nation, these rights are not yet realized.

The provisions in the Environmental Justice For All Act are about credible, equitable access to parks and outdoor activities and opportunities for underserved communities.

Federal agencies will be required to meaningfully, under NEPA, engage any communities prior to any decision when proposing actions affecting an EJ community and it strengthens Tribal consultation and input opportunities.

The bill strengthens and restores civil rights protections for communities long facing greater environmental hazards on the bases of race, color, or national origin.

The bill brings transparency, coordination, and accountability from Federal agencies when they carry out activities affecting frontline communities.

I was proud to work with Representative McEachin, who left us far too early, to develop the Environmental Justice For All Act. His legacy on this issue, is his compassion that he brought to it, his strength that he brought to it, they continue to be the legacy and the motivation to secure environmental justice and work for this legislation.

I am proud to say that Representative BARBARA LEE will now join as co-lead on the Environmental Justice For All Act this session, and now the legislation will be called the Donald McEachin Environmental Justice For All Act.

We are talking about basic rights. We are not talking about anything extravagant, anything that is not proven by fact. These communities have been burdened time and time again by industry.

The legislation that we will be seeing today and tomorrow brought forth by the Republicans opens the door once again to unchecked, unmonitored and unprotected actions that will negatively continue to affect these communities.

The environment, climate, the need for remediation, and the need for involvement by all communities, and the resolution of the issues we face around climate change requires that the environmental justice community long left off the discussion, long-ignored in the history of this Nation, in the siting of projects and activities that have hurt those communities and those families, needs to be at the table.

If my Republican colleagues indeed want to reward Big Oil for their support that they have given them, it is time that they include all communities.

BORDER SECURITY AND CRIME

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. D'ESPOSITO) for 5 minutes.

Mr. D'ESPOSITO. Madam Speaker, for too long, the Biden administration has surrendered control of our Nation's southern border to members of the cartels and other bad actors who seek to do this great Nation harm.

This inaction by the Biden administration has allowed an untold number of illegal migrants, drug smugglers, and human traffickers to cross into our country with ease.

Many of these illegal entrants bring anarchy to our streets by committing violent crimes and help fuel America's drug crisis by smuggling in dangerous narcotics such as fentanyl.

Since Joe Biden has taken office, over 4.7 million illegal immigrants have been apprehended at our southern border, representing a 500 percent increase in border crossings since 2020.

While many have been apprehended, thousands of migrants have evaded capture by Federal authorities, including 70,000 known got-aways in December of 2022 alone.

These migrants remain unaccounted for, and now are free to roam the streets of our cities and towns, endangering the lives of innocent Americans.

In fact, earlier this month, four migrants who were bused to New York from the southern border were arrested on Long Island after stealing thousands of dollars in merchandise from a store in my district.

Thanks to the hard work of the Nassau County Police Department they were apprehended. Unfortunately, in New York, Democrats have put criminals ahead of law-abiding citizens and those individuals were released once again to wreak havoc on our communities.

While I am glad that these thieves were captured, local law enforcement should not be forced to deal with the end result of Joe Biden's failed border policy.

If President Biden is serious about securing our border and preventing migrants from committing crimes, like what happened in the Fourth Congressional District of New York, he would stop underfunding Customs and Border Protection and treat our Border Patrol agents the way they should be treated and provide the agency the resources it needs to secure our borders here in America.

As a member of the Homeland Security Committee, I fully intend to hold the President and Secretary Mayorkas accountable for their disastrous open border policies and seek solutions that safeguard this great Nation.

CRISIS OF MENTAL HEALTH AND GUN VIOLENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. COSTA) for 5 minutes.

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, we know that we have a crisis of mental health across America, and it impacts gun violence, homelessness, and so many other factors. One in five U.S. adults live with mental illness. One in seven in California.

As a result of the pandemic, more Americans have felt alone, scared, and depressed. In my district there is a severe lack of access to mental health in culturally and linguistically challenged areas, especially in southeast Fresno.

In response, we secured \$1.5 million to provide expanded mental health and recovery services. That is not enough. We need to do much more throughout the valley and throughout our country.

The lack of investment in mental health services and resources has also fueled a rise in homelessness, as we know, and gun violence in our country. Not even 1 month into 2023, we have had 39 mass shootings that have taken place in America. From Monterey Park in California, Half Moon Bay, to Goshen, California, all three in our State, we have been torn apart by senseless gun violence.

Americans have offered thoughts and prayers. Those are good but not enough. We need further action on gun reform and mental health support. It is critical.

As the chair of the Crime Survivors and Justice Caucus, I am advocating that we build on the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act by hiring more mental health providers, strengthening access to treatment, and expanding resources to our youth. It is very necessary today with our young people.

To all my fellow Americans, it is okay not to be okay. It is okay to ask for help and dial 988. Let's break the stigma and try to save lives.

FLOODS AND WATER STORAGE

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, most are aware that in California we seem to have extreme floods and extreme droughts. Certainly, that has been proven true in the last month.

Last week, I met with local, State, and Federal California water leaders to discuss our efforts to divert flood control and improve groundwater recharge.

Recent storms have dumped over 32 trillion, with a t, gallons of water in California, and the weather forecasters are anticipating that in February we will have more rain.

We need to be better prepared to avoid what happened in Planada, California where over half of the community was flooded and farmworkers and others lost their homes. A grammar school was literally inundated and now the 300 students are being taught at a middle school.

More needs to be done to deal with the displaced farmworkers and the impacts to farmers.

I am working with Governor Newsom and the White House to streamline the process to divert floodwater and increase water storage. It is absolutely

necessary with climate change and other factors we are dealing with.

We have secured some funding to begin to fix our infrastructure. It is time we get these projects permitted and shovels in the ground. Let's get to work.

USDA FUNDING FOR DAIRY PRODUCERS

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, California is also the number one agriculture State in the Nation. Dairy producers are a key part of that production. They are feeling the pinch of the pandemic, an unsteady market, and increases in feed and input costs, which impact the bottom line.

From milk to cheese that we all enjoy, dairy producers have been working tirelessly to put food on America's dinner table. California produces over 20 percent of all the milk in America.

I am proud to announce that I, along with some of my Republican and Democratic colleagues, have worked with Secretary Vilsack to secure \$100 million in additional aid to support the dairy producers recovering from the impacts of COVID-19.

As the leading dairy-producing State in the Union, this funding will help California dairy farmers so they can continue to produce and deliver the most nutritious products around the world.

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HONORING THE CAREER OF KERRI DONIS

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, today I honor careers of individuals who make a difference, such as the career of Kerri Donis.

Madam Speaker, I want to honor Chief Kerri Donis for 27 years of her fearless leadership and courageous service to the Fresno Fire Department. Kerri is the first woman to hold the position as the department's chief in a country where only 4 percent of the firefighters are women.

Under her leadership, the department has grown to 402 personnel for the city of Fresno. She has created programs like Girls Empowerment Camp which introduces fire service careers for young women.

Chief Donis will be remembered for her selfless acts and for consistently putting safety for her firefighters and the community above all else.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Chief Kerri Donis on her retirement.

GUN VIOLENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today not only for Half Moon Bay and Monterey Park, but for Oakland, Goshen, and San Francisco; for Dallas and for Houston; for Red Springs, High Point, and Durham; for Chicago and Rockford; for Tunica Resorts; for Baton Rouge, Shreveport, and New Orleans; for Fort Pierce, San-

ford, Homestead, Ocala, and Miami Gardens; for Phoenix; for St. Louis; for Cleveland and Columbus; for Allentown, Philadelphia; for Minneapolis; for Denver; for Albany, Georgia; for Huntsville; for Enoch; for Baltimore; for Dumfries; and for Washington, D.C.

We are 26 days into the new year, and in those 26 days, there have been 40 mass shootings in our country. That is 40 mass shootings—73 innocent Americans killed. These were mothers, fathers, sons, and daughters who should still be with us today. My heart is broken for every single, solitary one of them.

How much more heartbreak must our Nation endure?

How many more lives must we lose?

How many more times must we watch as another safe space, another sanctuary, another school, or another celebration becomes a site for a shooting?

How many times must I come to the floor and make this plea?

Our moments of silence won't save a single, solitary soul.

We have seen more mass shootings in the first month of 2023 than in any other January on record. The new year should mark new beginnings, new progress, and new hope. Instead, we find ourselves moving backward. In less than a month, this year has become one defined by shock and sorrow.

Every other country in the developed world has managed to rein in gun violence. In 1996, Australia enacted commonsense firearm regulations following a mass shooting, and gun deaths were cut in half. In the U.K., just one school shooting pushed the government to pass lifesaving gun violence prevention measures. New Zealand banned assault weapons almost immediately after the Christchurch massacre.

Where our peer nations choose to act, America chooses to stand by in the face of tragedy after tragedy after tragedy.

A safer America is possible. We can end the gun violence epidemic. We can build a culture of rational, reasonable, and responsible firearm ownership. We can ban the weapons of war used in so many mass shootings. In fact, we have done it in the past.

From 1994 to 2004, the United States banned assault weapons. During that time, gun deaths plummeted, but they shot right back up as soon as the ban was lifted.

We have the resources and the precedent to do that again. What we need is the political will. Ending gun violence is not an issue of can't. It is an issue of won't.

My Republican colleagues won't ban assault weapons, they won't ban large magazines, and they won't pass universal background checks.

The gun violence epidemic is a stain upon the fabric of our Nation, and that stain grows deeper every second that Congress chooses not to pass substantial gun violence prevention legislation.